

How Can You Help Work Toward a Better Future for the Coast?

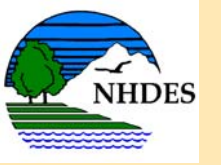
Improving your coastal environment and community can be as simple as picking up a piece of trash on the beach or as involved as making a regular volunteer time commitment to education. Here are some ideas to feed the coastal stewardship spirit.

- ✓ Stay informed. For more frequent updates, sign up for *The Rip Tide*, our bi-monthly e-newsletter, by e-mailing ccoletti@des.state.nh.us and writing subscribe in the subject line.
- ✓ Support legislation that enables NHCP and our partners to do our work.
- ✓ Volunteer. Become a Marsh Monitor or volunteer for other coastal groups.
- ✓ Go for a walk on the beach. Pick up a piece of trash while you're there.
- ✓ Participate in the annual International Coastal Cleanup Day on the third Saturday of every September. Participate in a local monthly beach cleanup. Bring a friend. Contact the Blue Ocean Society at (603) 431-0260 or www.blueoceansociety.org for more information.
- ✓ Get involved with local planning efforts. Contact your local town planning board, conservation commission, and/or regional planning commission to learn more.
- ✓ Learn about the Public Beach Inspection Program by visiting www.des.nh.gov/Beaches.
- ✓ Maintain your septic system and encourage others to do the same.
- ✓ Don't leave your pets' waste on the ground. Pick it up in a plastic bag and throw it in the trash. DON'T throw it down a storm drain!



NH Coastal Program

Year in Review 2005



Partners in Coastal Stewardship 2005

The Coastal Program is a partnership of federal, state, municipal and nongovernmental institutions. The whole is truly greater than the sum of our parts. We would like to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication this year. The following are some examples of our collective accomplishments.

In 2005, two public access projects were completed in Rye at Awcomin Marsh and Odiorne State Park, providing recreational opportunities and access to these delicate ecosystems with minimal impact to the marshes. NHCP worked with several private consultants and contractors to get this work done.

The Dover pet waste pilot project was so successful last summer that it will go citywide next year. In 2004, researchers gathered water quality data that linked pet waste to elevated bacteria levels in a small creek that flows through the Garrison Road area. Coastal Program staff, other DES staff, and a Pet Waste Committee made up of Dover stakeholders launched a major public outreach campaign last summer to reduce water pollution caused by pet waste. Holding a logo design contest, coordinating storm drain stenciling in the



NHCP coordinated the New Hampshire Salt Marsh Monitor Program for the third consecutive year with the staffing support of Ducks Unlimited. Pictured here, Marsh Monitor volunteers brave the rain.

local neighborhood, and passing out dog treats with informational tags to pet owners at a local fair helped educate people on how to safely and properly dispose of their pets' waste.

NHCP coordinated the New Hampshire Salt Marsh Monitor Program for the third consecutive year with the staffing support of Ducks Unlimited. Approximately 40 volunteers came out to learn about salt marshes while contributing to scientific data on pre and post salt marsh restoration sites.

The Coastal Program continued its strong involvement in International Coastal Cleanup Day. From volunteer recruitment to informative and eye-catching posters, the Blue Ocean Society did a great job coordinating a successful event with NHCP funding and support. In addition, approximately 50 attendees dropped off debris or stopped to share a snack and either watch or help artist Kristen Lanzer create a community-built Trashformation, a sculpture made out of some of the collected trash.

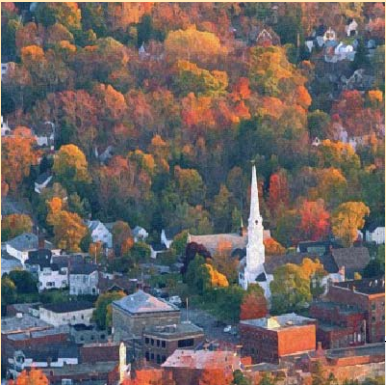


View from the boardwalk at Awcomin Marsh in Rye.

Grantee Gallery

The Tides of Change, University of New Hampshire

The University of New Hampshire Center for Integrative Regional Problem Solving and the Complex Systems Research Center partnered on this project to integrate information collected from historical aerial photography of Strafford and Rockingham Counties and other data sets collected in the past, which run the gamut from changes in land use to air quality. This data is being used to support a model predicting future development patterns. Researchers presented the data gathered during the year-long project at the November 2005 Changing Face of the Seacoast forum. Eighty-nine attendees learned about how human health and well being indicators have changed in the Seacoast over the last 40 years. In addition to the presentation, the evening included personal accounts by residents and a panel discussion on the future.



What Goes Down Comes Around, LifeWise Community Projects, Inc.

In 2005, LifeWise volunteers taught 63 water resources education classes to approximately 1,380 students and members of the public at events and schools, including the Seacoast Science Center, Milton Elementary School and Portsmouth Middle School. The program, entitled, “Future Water Guardians of New Hampshire,” reaches people with little prior knowledge of the water cycle and watersheds. The curriculum also includes nonpoint source pollution and groundwater model demonstrations. This grant is for two consecutive fall terms of education, 2005 and 2006. LifeWise is a nonprofit in Barrington placing volunteers in a variety of service experiences that enhance their community and themselves.



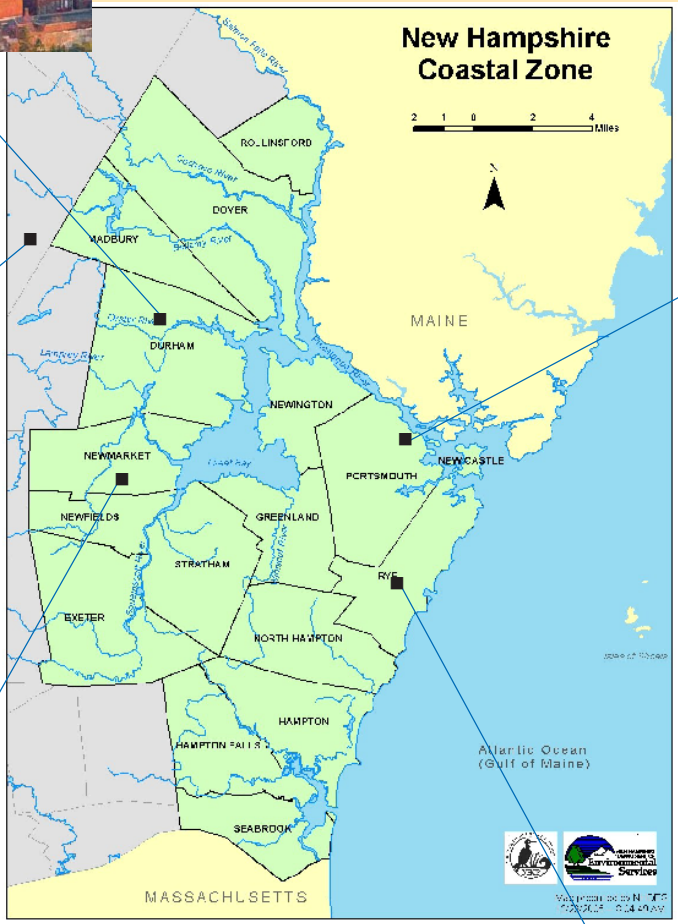
Adam Torrey, volunteer and board member to LifeWise, at Marston Elementary School in Hampton.

Down by the River, Town of Newmarket

This past year, work continued on the multi-phased construction of a downtown waterfront walkway along the Lamprey River in Newmarket. The riverwalk will connect the boat landing and Waterfront Park to Water Street, providing walking access to shops and restaurants in downtown. Residents, business owners and visitors will benefit from the additional recreational opportunities along the Lamprey. In 2005, Newmarket officials negotiated final easement terms with a private owner with property abut-



View of the Lamprey River, Newmarket.



The Captain Edward Adams gundalow in Exeter. Photo: Eric M. Winch copy-right 2005, iworks-media.com

ting the Lamprey River. The owner financed the reconstruction of the seawall along the property frontage, laying the groundwork for the future path. In 2004, phase one construction included a walkway through the town park, improvements to the town landing and boat ramp, and lighting, benches and plantings. Phase two construction will occur within the easement area and include construction of 165 feet of walkway, linking it to the phase one walkway.

Educational Cargo, Gundalow Company

The flat-bottomed sailing barges known as gundalows were once a common sight on the Piscataqua River from 1650-1900 as they carried freight to the riverfront towns in Great Bay. In the summer of 2005, the Captain Edward Adams gundalow carried a different sort of cargo. The vessel hosted guest speakers taking a contemporary look at coastal issues in the region, and 462 attendees took advantage of the series at its stops in Portsmouth, Exeter, Newfields, Rye, Dover, Durham and Stratham. In addition, approximately 366 students participated in newly offered onboard programs between July 1 and September 1. Participants learned about gundalows, navigation tides and currents, knot-tying, water sampling and model building. The Gundalow Company pre-serves the *Captain Edward Adams*, which was built in 1982 and is the region's only gundalow, as a platform for maritime, historical, and environmental education throughout the Piscataqua Region. The Gundalow hosted approximately 10,000 visitors between January and November 2005.

Restoration Planning by Computer, Ducks Unlimited

Rye town officials can now access data to help salt marsh restoration and management efforts by logging onto a website from their home or office. The tool was released in fall 2005 and can be used to view past restoration project areas along with current issues, such as tidal restrictions—all superimposed on aerial photography of Rye. The information will be used to prioritize potential restoration areas and set future goals. The data layers can be viewed individually or several can be viewed at the same time. In the future, additional layers of data will be added, including open water habitat. Ducks Unlimited set up the website, and NHCP provided project funding through the Restoration Program, and gave feedback. For more information about the tool, visit Ducks Unlimited at <http://glaro.ducks.org>.



Awcomin Marsh, Rye